

## Governor Haley Barbour

Now in his sixth year as Governor of the State of Mississippi, Haley Barbour has put his state on a new path in many of the major issues of the day – job creation, education, health care, energy, safer communities, and stronger families.

Governor Barbour believes governors are elected to exert executive leadership and deal effectively with real issues that affect people close to home. In short, governors have to “do” things.

In Mississippi that “doing” has been marked by:

- The most comprehensive tort reform in the nation, restoring balance for plaintiffs and defendants in the state’s civil justice system;
- Balanced budgets and effective management of fiscal resources, despite decreased revenue collections caused by the national economic downturn;
- A 27.8% increase in per capita personal income;
- Prudent management of the state health care program; and,
- New focus on Mississippi’s positioning as an energy reliable state that can produce affordable, available, American energy.

In 2003, Governor Barbour won his first term in the largest voter turnout in Mississippi gubernatorial history; in 2007, he was elected to a second term with 58.2 percent of the vote, becoming only the second Governor in Mississippi history to win re-election.

When Hurricane Katrina – the worst natural disaster in American history – struck Mississippi in 2005, Governor Barbour and First Lady Marsha Barbour, his wife of 37 years, took the lead in helping South Mississippi recover. A comprehensive recovery plan led to \$5.4 billion in federal assistance, primarily for housing and infrastructure needs; state aid; and a massive outpouring of volunteer support from charitable and religious organizations.

For his leadership after Katrina, Governor Barbour was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Freedom Award by the American Legislative Exchange Council.

He was also named Governor of the Year for 2006 by Washington, D.C.-based *Governing* magazine; awarded the Gulf Guardian Award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for his work to rebuild and protect sensitive Coast ecosystems; and received the 2008 Adam Smith Medal from BIPAC for his pursuit of the principles of free enterprise as Mississippi's 63<sup>rd</sup> Governor.

He is a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, and earned his juris doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law. He advised President Ronald Reagan as Director of the White House Office of Political Affairs, and served two terms as Chairman of the Republican National Committee.